



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Docket No.: 07710001C1

William G. DENNIS

Serial No.: 09/885,856

Group Art Unit: 3763

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Examiner: HAYES, Michael J.

Confirmation No.: 3188

For: **SURGICAL INSTRUMENT SEAL ASSEMBLY**

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Sir:

In response to the **Non-Final Office Action** mailed December 13, 2004 ("Office Action"), please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the claims, which are reflected in the Listing of Claims, begins on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 7.

A **Conclusion** begins on page 13.

Applicants believe that a two (2) month extension of time is required and concurrently filed herewith. If additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fees required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to **Deposit Account No. 23-1951 (McGuireWoods)**. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to the same Deposit Account.